

Dear Steve, Matt and Margo,

Delivered to Steve Seboldt, Matt Walkoe & Margo Walkoe Jan. 2001

I apologize for the delay in getting this letter to you because it is very important that you are aware of what I'm doing in my life and know that you have an open door to me anytime. I have been delaying because the thought of writing down your life situations and thoughts on paper are overwhelming so I have been praying and asking the Lord to allow me to write very clear and open and that it may be read in the same manner.

I have many things that I want to write about, so I will write in paragraph form to make sure what is being said does not run into each other.

I have been in and out of being apart of the church scene with both TLW and CLW since I've moved back from Iowa 1/95. This is for many reasons and many excuses which every single one of them can go to hell (that's what I constantly tell myself to help remember they are in fact excuses and I need to get over them) because I know the Lord still has me in this part of the Kingdom for a reason and no excuse will ever change that. Even before all the words that came during Tabernacles I knew I had no excuse to not be apart anymore, but I did not have the strength or support to change it. The words during the feast up until right now have been so incredible and directed straight towards me (doesn't everyone feel that) and have given me that strength and support I've been needing to make this step. I am so excited to be here at this time and want to be apart more than I have been. But, I still need to be honest in how I feel about things and let you guys in on some of those "excuses". I do not have a plan or an idea of what I need in order to forgive and forget, besides continuing to pray and believe for it, but I feel that I need to be able to talk about what keeps me back and have faith that it will not continue to keep me back with your help. For a very specific reason, I have an extremely hard time being at TLW, whether it is for fun, function or church. I expressed why and my feelings about everything to Scott two years back and the reply I got kept a wedge between us for a long time. I was being very harsh and hurt about how I felt and Scott's answer was that I needed to decide whether I wanted to be apart of the church or not. I already knew I wanted to be apart because this is where the Lord has placed me and this is where I want to be, so I asked Scott to be open to me and pray about what I was saying because I do want to be apart and I do want and feel that these things need to change and that I was not going to accept them anymore. I remember John saying something to the affect that if he was kicked out of the church he would crawl back through the back doors because for him this is where the Lord is, well, it's the same for me, this is my home and family since I was a little girl and now as an adult this is where I know the Lord wants me to be and where I want to be. *w/me*

I'm living my life half-ass, living and serving two masters and I don't want to do that anymore because it's killing me as a person and as a son. I want to be here only, not out there, ~~not with my friends because I'm so lonely and using them to have some happiness and comfort in my life.~~

After hearing the words of having no excuses and the metaphor of coming up to the Lord with Him asking, "My son, why did you not walk with me the way you knew you should?" And my reply is, *exc. etc. with me* "Well because my shepherds didn't relate to me the right way and I felt like I didn't have the right atmosphere and I felt that they didn't know me and I was completely devastated over that so to survive I moved myself out from under them and their covering." The reality of this word scared the shit out of me and I want to change it in myself, so I am, by submitting to you guys again and asking for a covering and a specific relationship to come under.

Although I seem so separate and distant from the church, my life, my entire life is wrapped up in the Lord and The Living Word and Gary & Marilyn's heart and drive (which is why I've stayed in this church; knowing the Lord wants me here, never wanting to leave Gary & Marilyn because I love and adore their heart and drive for this church, it is the same as mine). The Living Word and the Lord are the only things I have come to know and want in my life above everything else, despite the appearance of my lifestyle. I will not stop giving and learning of Him. Everyday I try harder than the last to apply and live by all the principles I've heard in the Word. I listen to the current word and cry over the fact that I'm not already walking in it, but in the same tear I get excited because I know nothing will stop me from trying and believing for it to happen within me. I have made decisions over the course of my life that ^{make} taken me around the mountain, and I am very aware of these decisions and I hate them. I have made a commitment to the Lord (and Marilyn) that I will be His son for the simple fact that I have met Him before and fell totally in love with Him. I am writing this down not to prove myself, but to help show you that I have an ^{deep} amazing love and personal relationship with the Lord, but not His people and that is what breaks my heart because I know it breaks His. ^{and sure}

I have heard the Lord's voice and everything that I am about to write has been shown to me that they are all in fact excuses, but I need to say them because I am still in the process of cleaning out my heart and memories so I will not get snagged on them again. I have a few amazing relationships in my life who are the Lord to me and have helped me with these things but it needs to be submitted to you for the covering I know I need and the Lord is wanting me to get. There is a main reason why I am not apart of TLW or haven't had a desire to be the past several years. I have been very honest with myself about this, which is why it's hard to write about it because it can be looked at from every angle with a different opinion and perception, but it's my perception that matters for you to understand what I have been through and where I'm coming from. But let me say this first and foremost, I love Rick and Scott so dearly, so deeply; none of what I'm about to say has changed my love for them and my support for their ministry and heart. The only shepherding connections I had when I moved back from LA in 1995 from Iowa were Rick Holbrook and Scott McDonald, which of course I was happy about because I knew that right away I would be covered and brought into the TLW church. Rick and Scott had always been a huge fathering part of my life and had asked me to move to LA because they felt it was time I leave Iowa, I moved to LA because of that, and I was also ready to really go after a relationship with The Living Word again, to know myself in the Lord even more. There were some extremely difficult times in Iowa, for me especially after ~~Jay~~ moved back to CA. I will not go into the details of that time, but I will say that there were over 20 kids who were there by themselves as I was and only a few are still around. I would never blame anyone, it was just a very hard time and few survived. Recently, there have been more of them coming back, most by a connection with other kids who went through the same ordeals and a couple shepherds who have reached out looking for them to bring them back. In fact, Shiloh was also an incredible place for me and my growth in the Lord and in the Word. It's where I learned how to wait on the Lord, how to worship deeply and effectively, how to know my spirit and control it, where I got a love and relationship with John Stevens. Over the past five years of being in LA I have gotten a deep personal relationship with the Lord because it was my destiny to move to LA and still is. You need to know how I have pursued that relationship because where the Lord has been for me the past couple years He is now moving into a different area and I need to be in that area, which is with you or us finding together where that area is for me.

This is hard to read now because I truly did forgive them and still love them back when the abuses & cover-up was happening.

After I moved to LA my shepherds were Rick and Scott and over the past five years I have led myself out of that shepherding from what I felt "at the time" was a leading of the Lord, but now I think it was more a survival tactic. Rick and Maria got married in 3/93, just a couple months after I moved to LA. It was my first big event with T/CLW and I didn't have a lot of close friends there, as my parents lived in Orange County and most of the Bakersfield church moved to Santa Barbara and San Diego. I was also living in Orange County until I could find housing in the Valley so I hadn't been around everyone very much before this time. After the ceremony during the reception Rick and Scott came over to me and I congratulated Rick and he put his arm around me and Scott did the same and Rick said to me, "That could have been you up there with me" while Scott nodded his head yes. I didn't know what to say but I felt completely violated and Rick said it again so I just put on a smile and got away as fast as I could. I couldn't stay the whole reception, I felt like an outsider taking away from the atmosphere, but not by choice, I felt that it was pushed on me by Rick and Scott. I was pissed and hurt, but I didn't go back to them about how I felt because I was embarrassed and afraid.

For a long time after that, Rick would find ways to do and say inappropriate things to me privately or in front of everyone, including Maria. He would talk about how great my breasts were, how he walked in my door room at YASP on accident and saw me nude and how developed I was at a young age, he would comment on how sexy I looked and that my legs looked great and that I would make a great wife one day. Scott would only condone this behavior and others would just stand there and either laugh or just look at me. Several times I would go to Scott in tears asking what I could do to stop it and how it was affecting Maria & I's relating whom I had looked up to for many years and was trying to get a relationship with. Scott didn't have an answer; he would just say that Rick does not mean anything by it he just appreciates breasts too much and that I should not feel uncomfortable around Maria because she knows how Rick is otherwise she wouldn't have married him. If my husband acted like that towards a particular girl (I was only 21 at the time) I wouldn't want her to be around him or me or our friends and that's exactly how I felt, that she didn't want me hanging around them and I couldn't blame her, who could blame her, all the girls could tell it upset her and I felt like crap all the time because of it.

There was a group that hung out with Rick and Maria all the time; that same group is where my covering was but I never felt comfortable to be around them because of the situations Rick would put me in. I could feel that people didn't know where I was coming from, that I was interrupting the atmosphere because of the negative and gross directives that were directed at me. I truly felt that most people were thinking wrong and untrue of me because of the way Rick was thinking of me. That became the atmosphere or rather reputation that was given to me, whether everyone thought that or not, I thought they did because it was coming straight from the person over me and I too was immature in how I related to it because I let my mind get the best of me because I knew that was not who I am or what I was about. However disillusioned this may sound it was my reality; I would walk into TLW and the guys would be happy to see me and would come up and hug me for all the wrong reasons and I didn't know how to be a bitch then and guard my atmosphere so I would just let them hug me and then the girls would barely acknowledge I was there no matter how hard I tried to be around them and talk and laugh with them, they would not let me into their circles of relating, it was devastating every time I was at TLW, but I continued to go to services for the Word and the worship.

After going to Scott several times with these feelings and asking for help and not getting it, I started to stay at home and just cry over the fact that the people who I was suppose to be connected with, my family, didn't even know my heart or me or even care that I was at home crying, which some of them did. This is when I incorporated the principle of being consistent in my prayers. Every night I prayed for this "thing" to change and for me to feel accepted and not have it hold me back because I was so desperate and driven for it to be different. Then, a year or so later, Scott and I were accused by several people in the church of having an affair, and I just lost it after that. To me, in my mind, this just confirmed how people were thinking of me and I lost faith that I would ever have a true atmosphere in this church for who I was as a person, but I was determined that it would not affect my ministry of love nor my dedication to the Lord and Marilyn. So I stopped being around for any functions other than church. I stopped working in Accounting, which was hard for me because I love ~~his job~~ so much and I wanted to help her. A couple months after that ~~she~~ moved to LA. Once again I felt the Lord placed her in my life at the perfect time. We already have a love relationship from Iowa so I talked with her about everything I'd been going through. She helped me so much and covered me just when I needed it the most. The Lord was very much in my relationship with ~~her~~ and it saved me, really it did.

Don't you think I wanted to be apart of everything @ TLW? Of course I did, that's why this whole situation was absolutely devastating to me. Over the past five years the thing that I would die over the most with the Lord is asking him to bring me back under the covering of TLW with Scott and Steve Seboldt but he didn't or I didn't listen and where I thought He did give me a covering (which some of it was deception on my part because I just wanted to feel a covering anywhere) was through my relationships with ~~people~~, my Dad, ~~my friend~~ ~~and my family~~ and various people at different times like, Marilyn, Scott, ~~people~~, ~~people~~ and others. But now the Lord is telling me to get back under a covering in the divine order.

I wrote Marilyn twice during this time to tell her that I love her and that I'm here and I committed to be in her army of women. I didn't tell her about what I was going through or how Rick was relating to me, mainly because it's her son and he had just gotten married and just gotten back into the ministry with everyone's support and I didn't want to take away from that. But I feel her now asking me to get back into the main stream of things so I'm asking for your help to do so. She and Gary told me a year or so ago that they haven't made a big deal out of me for a reason. I don't know what that reason is and I don't know if she knew what was going on with me or not, but I do know she needs me to be more connected in now for what is to be coming in the Word so hopefully I'm not making myself be a big deal with telling you this because I wouldn't want to go against that Word, but I don't think I am. I just know that I need to be apart of walking in the current Word with you and not by myself anymore because the Word is changing and we need to be one with no excuses.

Scott told me one time that I never go to them with my problems or needs, but rather I go to them when I have already found the answer or filled the need (usually with the wrong thing). But now you know why that has been the case and they are all excuses, but nevertheless that has been why. I need a trust back that was lost and I'm praying to get that back. I know I have forgiven Rick and Scott, but I also know I haven't forgotten and I still struggle with people looking at me this way, but it's not going to stop me anymore. With all this being said, please know and believe that I love Rick and Scott the same way I loved them when I was a little girl, none of this has changed that. I know and support their ministry and heart; I just want them to know and support

Rick was removed from his ministry by Marilyn & Gary because of his affair, his second affair which turned into his third marriage, but was brought back into the ministry shortly after.

→ This was how I truly felt then, but I have not loved them for a long time now because I finally realized that I did not have to love an abusive relationship.

mine because sometimes I feel that they don't and I know that is also a lie, but I need help with that part.

It was recently asked by the TLW shepherds to submit our shepherding, so I've written down below who I feel shepherd me and I shepherd them.

They shepherd me:

[redacted] ([redacted] and I went to counseling together the past month, before she moved to Oregon, and it was a great catapult for a wonderful change in our relationship that I have been praying to the Lord for a long time).

[redacted] ([redacted] and I have always understood each other and are very close)

[redacted] (The Words that came last Tabernacles about finding someone who you can have an Elijah/Elisha relationship with and transference of spirit is exactly why I have been pursuing [redacted] and she had felt a leading to be that to me and submitted it to [redacted] and [redacted]. Maybe I feel this because I grew up with her and feel that she knows my heart and love for the Lord and Marilyn.)

[redacted]

[redacted] (My boyfriend who I would like to talk with you guys about in person.)

I shepherd them:

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] ([redacted])

[redacted]

[redacted] ([redacted] loves me to death and is so open to know who I am and where my heart has come from. In the process of her getting to know me and my relationship with [redacted] I feel there has been a level of shepherding which has changed her life and her relationships with her children and husband in the last two years.)

[redacted] ([redacted] who drags The Living Word principles out of me. She's so hungry to apply them in her own life. She's seen the way I handle things at work and in my personal life and constantly asks me to talk with her about the Lord. She's a great person.)

[redacted] ([redacted] I've known for 5 years and work with at [redacted]. I have been a big part of her life with her kids and husband, they have been like a retreat and second home for me. We have the same heart for people and the Lord so we really enjoy being around each other.)

I'm submitting all this to you not because I have found the answer to be apart like I should be, but because the Lord is telling me to be apart and this is how I know to start, with you, writing my life in this letter to let you know where I'm coming from and that I need to be here but I don't want to just start showing up more and more without you knowing what is going on in my mind and heart.

Love, Shalom